

Representatives will join me in thanking him for his continued commitment to his country.

HONORING DR. GRACIELA SARMIENTO OF ARROYO GRANDE, ROGER LYON OF CAYUCOS, DR. JAMES THORTON OF ARROYO GRANDE AND CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO STUDENT AND PARAMEDIC ANDREW THIEL

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Ms. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Last month, four cherished members of my community on the California Central Coast died when their plane carrying medical supplies crashed in Mexico. All four were participating in a humanitarian mission with the Flying Samaritans aid organization.

The tragic loss of Dr. Graciela Sarmiento of Arroyo Grande, Roger Lyon of Cayucos, Dr. James Thorton of Arroyo Grande and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo student and paramedic Andrew Thiel has been of tremendous shock and heart-ache to our close community. That these four selfless and dedicated individuals would pass on so suddenly and in an act of such generosity is all the more painful.

As our community grieves, we have pledged to honor the work of Graciela, Roger, James and Andrew in our own lives. In death, these remarkable people have reminded us in the most powerful and tragic of ways that life is short, and that genuine generosity knows no bounds.

While they were at different stages in life, all four were known to their families, friends and neighbors as bighearted, intellectually curious and passionate about contributing to the community and world around them. In leading through example, Graciela, Roger, James and Andrew demonstrated that there are no limits when working to make this world a better place.

I urge all my colleagues to celebrate the lives of Graciela, Roger, James and Andrew with their own acts of generosity and to pray for their surviving families and friends. Thank you and I yield back.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DAVID K. BRAWLEY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rev. David K. Brawley.

Reverend David K. Brawley's commitment to the call and demands of ministry is evidenced in his leadership and his availability.

At the age of sixteen, Rev. Brawley responded to God's will and was ordained by Rev. Winifred Phippen of First Baptist Church in Deer Park, New York. He became the Youth Minister at First Baptist, where he maintained his membership for thirteen years.

In 1994, Rev. Brawley began his full time career in ministry at St. Paul Community Bap-

tist Church in Brooklyn, New York, where Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood has served as Senior Pastor for the past thirty-five years. Rev. Brawley served as Dr. Youngblood's Assistant Pastor beginning in 1995, and in January 2008, was named Pastor Successor of St. Paul Community Baptist Church.

During his tenure at St. Paul, Rev. Brawley has served in a large number of roles, including: Coordinator of the Men-in-Training program for the St. Paul Community Board of Elders, pastoral counseling, officiating at sacred events such as weddings, baby dedications, and home going services, community organizing, leading worship services, and as an on-call teacher to the congregation. His organizing efforts play a dynamic role in the church's community development activities where he serves as a member of the Governance Board and Strategy Team of East Brooklyn Congregations, EBC, an organization which has been at the forefront of construction projects that have resulted in over 3000 affordable homes in Brooklyn. Rev. Brawley has been an outspoken advocate for public school reform and has addressed issues such as public safety, housing, and quality of life concerns on behalf of neighborhood residents. Rev. Brawley's community involvement also includes his role as Vice President of E.D.I.F.Y. Communities of East New York. E.D.I.F.Y., which stands for Empower, Develop and Improve Families and Youth, seeks to increase the vitality and value of urban communities by pooling resources and charitable funds.

Rev. Brawley's four principles for a strong, productive ministry are: creating a thriving worship experience; actively engaging in community organizing; edifying God's people; and becoming a beacon of economic development for the community the ministry serves. As a pastor, Rev. Brawley possesses the gifts of exhortation, inspiration, motivation, and encouragement, which he shares in worship services and across the nation at men's conferences, revivals, and youth group programming.

In 2004, Rev. Brawley earned his Master's degree in Theological Studies from the Faith Seminary of Tacoma, Washington. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in ministry at Faith Seminary.

Rev. Brawley resides in Brooklyn, New York with his wife Debra and their two children, Rhonesha and Michael.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Rev. David K. Brawley.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERT P. KELLER, USMC (RET.)

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise to recognize the life and service of Lieutenant General Robert P. Keller, USMC (Ret.).

Robert Keller was born in Oakland, California, on February 9, 1920. As part of the Greatest Generation, he joined the United States Marine Corps and answered his call to

duty during World War II. Robert Keller became an exceptional Naval aviator, serving in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He further distinguished himself as an aviator by flying both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. In Vietnam, he flew with his son, Bob, Jr., on a helicopter mission as well as a fixed-wing aircraft mission. Through the course of his career, General Keller earned the Silver Star Medal, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, and three awards of the Legion of Merit. He retired as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Development and Education Command, Quantico, on July 1, 1972.

Over the course of his distinguished career and his various billets, General Keller served our nation with great pride and dedication. He continued to uphold the Marine Corps values of honor, courage, and commitment throughout the rest of his life.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Lieutenant General Robert P. Keller's immense contributions to our national security through his lifelong leadership and service to the United States Marine Corps and this great nation. General Keller was preceded by his wife Lucille and is survived by children, Ronald, Robert, Anne, and Joan, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. I would like to offer my sincere condolences. Northwest Florida mourns the loss of a respected patriot. To his family and friends, he will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend; to all, he will forever be remembered as a great American hero.

RECOGNIZING BREESE MATER DEI FOR WINNING THE VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a talented group of student-athletes from Breese, Illinois.

The Breese Mater Dei Knights volleyball team recently captured the Illinois High School Athletic Association Class 3A State Title and finished the season with an outstanding 41-1 record. The Knights lost the first set of the championship match to Joliet Catholic 25-15, but fought back and captured the last two sets 25-18 and 26-24 to secure the state championship.

I would like to congratulate Head Coach Fred Rakers and Assistant Coach Chad Rakers for all of their hard work with the team. But most of all, I want to congratulate the 2010 state champion volleyball team from Breese Mater Dei: Samantha Bedard, Kaley Boeckmann, Chelsea Crocker, Kayla Eversgerd, Alyssa Hitpas, Bailey Kampwerth, Emily Koelling, Alison Lampen, Abby Luebbers, Mallory Mensing, Alison Mueller, Ashley Rakers, Brooke Schulte, Nicole Strieker, Abbey Winter.

These young ladies have represented themselves, their school and their community in an exemplary fashion and I want to join with all the members of this House in wishing them continued success in their athletic and academic endeavors.